



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **RICH SPOMER RETIRES FROM NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Steve Martin announced that long-time South District Ranger, Rich Spomer, will retire on August 23, 2002, after 34 years of government service. Spomer is well known within both the Jackson Hole community and the National Park Service organization.

Spomer, a Montana native, began his National Park Service (NPS) career in 1967 as a seasonal law enforcement ranger and fire control aid at Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, Wyoming. His first permanent NPS position came in 1971 as law enforcement ranger at Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA). He also joined the Coast Guard Reserves as an enforcement officer at LMNRA and worked as a scuba diver and in search and rescue. In 1974, he transferred to Rocky Mountain National Park as a backcountry ranger and trail worker. In 1978, he moved to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area where he was stationed at Wahweap and Rainbow Bridge marinas before becoming District Ranger at Bullfrog. He was Lower Current District Ranger at Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Missouri from 1984-89, before moving to Grand Teton as South District Ranger, a position he has held for the past 13 years.

Spomer applied his NPS training and skills during several national emergencies and national special events. He assisted during the aftermath of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, Florida's 1992 Hurricane Andrew and the Midwest floods of 1993. He was a member of the special event team during presidential visits to Grand Teton National Park by Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton. Spomer also worked on the incident team during the U.S.- Russia Summit between James Baker and Eduard Shevardnadze in September 1989. He served on a Type II Team during the Cerro Grande Fire at Los Alamos, New Mexico and worked as a logistics officer for the 2001 Green Knoll Fire on the Bridger-Teton National Forest near Wilson, Wyoming. In addition, Spomer has served on special events teams at Grand Canyon, Ft. Laramie and South Dakota. His most recent assignment came during the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah where he was a member of a pre-games incident management team and subsequently worked as Logistics Chief for America Public Lands during the games.

In addition to his special assignments with the Park Service, Spomer worked with several Jackson area community organizations. He was extensively involved with Teton County Emergency Medical Services and participated in the Project Impact program with Teton County. He also served on the Teton County Emergency Management Committee. In addition to other community work, Spomer contributed volunteer time with the American Red Cross; he served on the Advisory Board and as the NPS liaison with the Red Cross.

After completion of his extended NPS duties, Rich and his wife, Leslie, will move to a new home in Grand Junction, Colorado. Their two daughters Lissa and Ketti will remain in Teton County, working for the NPS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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